



## President Pro Tempore Eric Johnson

Senate District 1



Senator Eric Johnson is an architect and works at North Point Real Estate, a residential and commercial development firm. He is married and has two children. His family attends Savannah Christian Church.

In 1992, Johnson was elected to the Georgia House and he was elected to the State Senate in 1994. He represents coastal Georgia's 1st Senate District.

Sen. Johnson served as the Minority Leader for two terms and was elected as President Pro Tem of the Georgia Senate in January of 2003. This is the highest position in the Senate and runs the day-to-day operations of this legislative body.

Sen. Johnson is a member of the powerful Rules Committee. He also serves as Secretary of the Appropriations Committee. Other Committee assignments include Natural Resources and the Environment, Education, and Ethics.

Sen. Johnson has been named one the "100 Most Influential Georgians" by Georgia Trend magazine. And he is Co-Chairman of the Bush-Cheney 2004 Committee in Georgia.

### **EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Architecture, 1976  
Tulane University

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Created a new crime of domestic terrorism and placed it under the death penalty statute. Domestic terrorism is to try to kill or injure more than 10 people in an attempt to coerce public policy or intimidate state or local governments.
- Increased penalties for child abuse, including making it a felony to seriously injure a child.
- Allowed soldiers stationed overseas to get all property tax filing deadlines extended until they return home.

- Passed the "Know Thy Neighbor Act" that requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles to set up a system whereby any citizen can obtain a list of parolees, including their address and crime.
- Passed the "School Safety Act" in 1997 that requires notification of local school systems by Superior Court when a juvenile is convicted of a felony, sets up an alternative school curriculum, and strengthens teachers' protection from frivolous lawsuits.
- Required notification of the local school system by the Department of Children and Youth Services (DCYS) when juveniles convicted of a felony in Superior Court are released into the community.
- Required local law enforcement to pay the cost of the medical exam for rape victims and provide a "Rape Victims' Bill of Rights".
- Mandated periodic re-negotiation of the distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) between local governments to increase the fairness of property tax roll-backs.
- Wrote the amendment to the "Moment of Silence" law to allow student-initiated prayer at school and school events.
- Allowed 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders to be portable so citizens can forbid lifesaving measures if they want to die naturally and peacefully at home.
- Brought local jails under the "Mutiny in Prison Act" so that prisoners who harm a jailer could be charged with a felony.
- Passed major historic preservation initiative that mandates stewardship of state-owned properties, encourages state agencies to locate in historic districts, and establishes a museum grant program and an Historic Preservation Grant Fund.
- Passed legislation to allow fair competition between local cable TV companies and municipalities.
- Banned the use of aquifer storage recovery procedure in the Floridan Aquifer until 2003.
- Protected teachers from frivolous arrests by parents.
- Amended Landfill Act to permit closed landfills to be cleaned up and reopened for use.

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